



AL-11865
8.2

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT

business plan: 07-10

VISION

Alberta's environment sustains a high quality of life

MISSION

To sustain this high quality of life, Alberta Environment assures effective stewardship of Alberta's environmental systems

CORE BUSINESSES

- Safeguarding public and environmental health
- Leading and enabling citizens, communities, governments and industry to be environmental stewards
- Leading and supporting development and maintenance of critical regulatory systems and environmental infrastructure

GOALS

1. Ministry has effective risk management, is prepared and can respond
2. Ministry and partners have the policies/programs to achieve Government of Alberta environmental outcomes
3. Albertans understand existing/emerging environmental threats and opportunities
4. Communities, governments and industry support environmental stewardship
5. Environmental infrastructure is developed and sustained to meet the needs of the Government of Alberta
6. To achieve environmental outcomes, Government of Alberta has a comprehensive, risk-based and flexible set of regulatory and non-regulatory tools and incentives

PRIORITIES

- Update Alberta's climate change plan
- Renew and resource *Water for Life*
- Develop new environment/resource management regulatory framework
- Manage cumulative effects of oil sands and upgrading
- Develop a comprehensive Alberta air quality strategy
- Implement sustainable resource and environmental management
- Complete the Land Use Framework
- Enhance staff capability





goal 1

Ministry has effective risk management, is prepared and can respond

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Drinking water safety (water quality, facility design standards and operational requirements).
- Alberta Environment's emergency response team's response time (*measure under development*).

STRATEGIES

- Identify, understand and improve awareness of existing/emerging issues that could lead to significant incidents/emergencies in Alberta.
- Develop/implement comprehensive framework for risk management as well as strategic decision making, priority setting and operational/policy responses.
- Develop/implement systems that involve all agencies/stakeholders in the province's emergency response community, and identify high-risk industries and areas.
- Conduct a risk assessment across Alberta, identifying areas/sectors that need enhanced groundwater protection/management.
- Develop a climate change adaptation risk management framework.
- Provide and improve tools that support flood risk avoidance and warning for communities.

goal 2

Ministry and partners have the policies/programs to achieve Government of Alberta environmental outcomes

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Policy integration: percentage of proposed policies/programs assessed and developed for alignment among resource and environmental management ministries.
- Policy capacity: percentage of ministry staff/partners who have received policy training (*both measures under development*).

STRATEGIES

- Work with partners on policy advice to Government of Alberta for emerging environmental and sustainable development issues, risks and opportunities.
- Work with other ministries/stakeholders on an integrated policy framework.
- Strengthen stakeholder ability to participate in policy/planning processes.
- Implement Ministry's workplace culture, learning and development and succession planning frameworks so employees can achieve business plan goals.
- With Sustainable Resource Development, other government ministries and input from Albertans, support development of a long-term land use framework.
- In partnership with Clean Air Strategic Alliance, develop a comprehensive Alberta air quality strategy.
- In partnership with other ministries and stakeholders, develop and implement innovative, integrated policy for: oil sands development/upgrading; upstream oil and gas; air quality and increasing urbanization/industrial growth, and on waste reduction/diversion and resource conservation.
- Update/implement Alberta's climate change plan, with greenhouse gas regulations for large industrial emitters in effect, opportunities for accelerated carbon management and a climate change vulnerability assessment.
- Renew/resource and implement the *Water for Life* strategy by: developing shared governance; promoting water conservation, efficiency and productivity; increasing web access to water information and by setting instream flow needs and water quality objectives with stakeholders in key watersheds.
- Put the South Saskatchewan River basin water management plan's recommendations into operation, to reduce risk of future water shortages.
- Effectively manage the cumulative effects on Alberta's environment of oil sands development and upgrading.





goal 3

Albertans understand existing/emerging environmental threats and opportunities

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

- Annual public opinion survey of Albertans, measuring awareness/understanding of environmental issues, *State of the Environment* trends, priorities and actions (measure under development).

STRATEGIES

- Work with partners to develop an integrated monitoring strategy for increased environmental monitoring, information gathering and reporting capabilities across Alberta.
- Enhance *State of the Environment* reporting and its relevance to Albertans.
- Enhance public awareness/understanding of environmental issues through public outreach and programs, and enable Albertans to take action.

goal 4

Communities, governments and industry support environmental stewardship

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Beverage container and used oil return rates; volume of municipal solid waste to landfills; tonnages of electronics and scrap tires collected and processed annually.
- Percentage of Albertans who self-describe as actively engaged in energy, waste or water conservation. Also for percentage of industries/companies implementing stewardship (measure under development).

STRATEGIES

- In the areas of watershed, airshed and cumulative effects management, monitoring and reporting and waste reduction: develop the ability of communities to define roles and responsibilities, assess needs, develop products, build capacity and evaluate programs in support of environmental stewardship.
- Support formal/informal partnerships with other Government of Alberta ministries, stakeholders, Aboriginal communities, municipalities and other governments to achieve common environmental objectives.
- Guide development and support activities of stewardship organizations including Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Watershed Stewardship Groups and airshed groups.





goal 5

Environmental infrastructure is developed and sustained to meet the needs of Government of Alberta

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

- Use, functional adequacy and physical condition of provincially owned water management infrastructure are regularly measured.

STRATEGIES

- Plan for and support Alberta's provincially owned dams, canals, weirs, diversions, drains and other related infrastructure. Ensure that privately owned water management infrastructure is safe.
- Take part in Government of Alberta's capital planning initiative, to sustain infrastructure and monitoring systems for environmental management.
- Work with municipalities and other ministries on enhancements to drinking water, wastewater and waste diversion infrastructure, with an emphasis on the development of regional systems.
- Help support opportunities for Government of Alberta, ministry and stakeholder management of the environment.

goal 6

To achieve environmental outcomes, Government of Alberta has a comprehensive, risk-based and flexible set of regulatory and non-regulatory tools and incentives

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

- Regulatory and non-regulatory tools being developed: these include innovative regulation, market-based instruments/fiscal reform, cooperative management agreements, disclosure of information and voluntary stewardship programs/corporate social responsibility (*measure under development*).

STRATEGIES

- Lead the collaborative creation of a new regulatory framework to address the regional cumulative impact of multiple developments on air, water, land and biodiversity.
- Enhance the Ministry's legislative development process to ensure timely identification and development of legislation to support progressive and innovative environmental management solutions.
- Develop a range of flexible non-regulatory tools and incentives to ensure, encourage, support and reward.
- Continue to develop and implement system improvements for remediation and reclamation.
- Implement a greenhouse gas regulatory system.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ph: 780.427.0047
Fx: 780.422.5136
www.gov.ab.ca/env/dept/index.html

Alberta Environment
Strategic Planning Secretariat
9th Floor, 9915 108 Street
Petroleum Plaza, South Tower
Edmonton, AB T5K 2G8